

Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

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R 231317Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5230

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 WARSAW 4354

PASS AGRICULTURE FAS

EO 11652GDS

TAGS: EAGR PL

SUBJ: VISIT OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BERGLAND TO POLAND--

SYNOPSSES OF MAJOR CALLS

REF: WARSAW 4326

1. FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1978, CALL ON PRIME MINISTER PIOTR JAROSZEWICZ. THE CALL ON PRIME MINISTER JAROSZEWICZ TURNED OUT TO BE THE MOST SUBSTANTIVE OF THE SECRETARY'S MAJOR CALLS. THE MEETING, BILLED AS A COURTESY VISIT, RAN FOR ALMOST 90 MINUTES. (MORE DETAILS ARE REPORTED BY SEPTTEL). JAROSZEWICZ WELCOMED THE SECRETARY'S VISIT AS ANOTHER STEP TOWARD MUTUAL POLISH-AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING AND ESPECIALLY FOR AMERICAN REALIZATION OF THE IMPORTANCE FOR POLAND OF GRAIN PURCHASES FROM THE US. JAROSZEWICZ INTRODUCED VICE PREMIER MIECZYSLAW JAGIELSKI AS THE NEW HEAD OF THE POLISH SIDE OF THE US-POLISH JOINT TRADE COMMISSION. IN A 20 MINUTE REVIEW OF POLAND'S TRADE PROBLEMS WITH THE US JAGIELSKI IMPLIED THAT POLAND MAY SOON BE FORCED TO CUT BACK ADDITIONALLY ON ITS IMPORTS FROM THE US BECAUSE OF ITS INABILITY TO EXPAND EXPORTS. JAGIELSKI FOCUSED PRIMARILY, HOWEVER, ON POLISH PURCHASES OF AMERICAN GRAINS AND POLAND'S URGENT NEED TO SECURE CREDIT TERMS MORE FAVORABLE THAN THOSE OF THE CCC PROGRAM. HE WENT ON TO DESCRIBE POLISH WISHES IN THIS REGARD, INCLUDING A LONGER REPAYMENT SCHEDULE, A GRACE PERIOD, AND LOWER INTEREST RATES. THE SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO MEET THE POLISH REQUEST UNDER EXISTING AUTHORITY, BUT THAT POLISH

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CHASES OF AMERICAN GRAINS AND POLAND'S URGENT NEED TO SECURE CREDIT TERMS MORE FAVORABLE THAN THOSE OF THE CCC PROGRAM. HE WENT ON TO DESCRIBE POLISH WISHES IN THIS REGARD, INCLUDING A LONGER REPAYMENT SCHEDULE, A GRACE PERIOD, AND LOWER INTEREST RATES.

THE SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO MEET THE POLISH REQUEST UNDER EXISTING AUTHORITY, BUT THAT POLISH

DESIRES WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH OTHER USG AGENCIES. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THIS POINT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HATHAWAY NOTED THAT LEGISLATION HAS BEEN PROPOSED TO LENGTHEN THE REPAYMENT PERIOD UNDER THE CCC PROGRAM, BUT THERE WAS NO ASSURANCE THIS WOULD BE REALIZED. HE DOUBTED THAT SUCH A FACILITY WOULD APPLY TO GRAIN PURCHASES.

THE SECRETARY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THE US INFORMED PRECISELY AND AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE OF WHAT POLAND'S IMPORT NEEDS WILL BE.

JAROSZEWICZ CONCLUDED THE MEETING WITH ANOTHER PITCH FOR A LONG-TERM BILATERAL GRAINS ARRANGEMENT, WHICH HE ASSURED THE SECRETARY WOULD NOT BE A MISTAKE. IN THE LAST FEW MINUTES OF THE SESSION THE PRIME MINISTER SAID POLAND WOULD LIKE TO BUILD GRAIN STORAGE ELEVATORS OF 1-2 MMT CAPACITY IN POLAND'S BALTIC PORT(S) WHICH, HE SUGGESTED SHOULD BE FINANCED WITH US ASSISTANCE. THESE FACILITIES WOULD GREATLY EASE POLAND'S LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS AND MAKE THE COUNTRY LESS DEPENDENT ON THE VAGARIES OF WEATHER AND SHIPPING SCHEDULES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC. (COMMENT: TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS IS THE FIRST MENTION OF THIS SUBJECT BY THE POLES. END COMMENT).

2. FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1978, PLENARY SESSION, WITH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE LEON KLONICAJ BECAUSE OF THE PROLONGED MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER JAROSZEWICZ, THE SO-CALLED PLENARY SESSION AT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WAS REDUCED FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PLANNED ONE HOUR AND 45 MINUTES TO APPROXIMATELY 50 MINUTES. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THIS MEETING, WHICH WAS TO BE AN IN-DEPTH SURVEY OF US-POLISH AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS, BECAME RATHER HURRIED AND PRO FORMA. NOT ALL SUBJECTS OF INTEREST WERE TOUCHED UPON.

MINISTER KLONICA OPENED WITH A BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE DISCUSSIONS JUST CONCLUDED WITH JAROSZEWICZ. HE THEN REPORTED ON THE CURRENT POLISH GRAIN CROP SITUATION, AND PRONOUNCED THE OUTLOOK FAIR FOR 1978.

SECRETARY BERGLAND THEN REVIEWED THE US WEATHER AND CROP SITUATION, NOTING THAT WHEAT PROSPECTS ON THE AVERAGE WERE GOOD, BUT T OT THE COLD, WET SPRING HAD COMPLICATED THE US CORN/ SOYBEAN CROP EQUATION.

VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE STANISLAW DLUGOSZ TALKED ABOUT GROWTH OF POLISH AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS FROM THE US OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS, REITERATED POLAND'S DESIRE FOR A BILATERAL GRAINS AGREEMENT WITH THE US, AND TOUCHED ON THE POTENTIAL FOR INCREASING POLISH AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE US.

FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE STEFAN ZAWODZINSKI SUMMARIZED ANTICIPATED POLISH IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FROM THE US FOR 1978/79, NOTING THAT THESE WOULD INCLUDE 3-4 MMT OF GRAINS, 100-150,000 MT OF SOYBEANS, 700,000 MMT OF OILSEED

MEALS, AND 12,000 MMT OF EDIBLE SOY PROTEINS.
MINISTER OF FOOD INDUSTRY AND PURCHASE EMIL KOLODZIEJ DIS-
CUSSED THE POTENTIAL FOR POLISH AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE
US IN MORE DETAIL, POINTING OUT THAT THE US MARKET
COULD TAKE MUCH MORE THAN POLAND IS NOW EXPORTING.
MINISTER KOLODZIEJ TOUCHED ON THE SUBJECT OF POLAND'S CON-
TINUING INTEREST IN CONSTRUCTION OF AN EDIBLE SOY PROTEIN PRO-
DUCTION PLANT IN POLAND AND SAID SUCH A PLANT WOULD INCREASE
POLISH PURCHASES OF US SOYBEANS. HE THEN ALSO MENTIONED THE
PORT FACILITIES PROJECT, BUT DID NOT GO INTO DETAIL SINCE
MINISTER KLONICA HAD COVERED THE POINT IN HIS INITIAL REMARKS
ON THE MEETING WITH JAROSZEWICZ.
SECRATARY BERGLAND SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS AND EXPLORE
THESE MATTERS UPON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON.
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DEPUTY MINISTER ZAWODZINSKI SPOKE BRIEFLY ABOUT THE
MINISTRY'S SATISFACTION WITH US-POLISH AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH,
THE VETERINARY SERVICES AGREEMENT, COOPERATION WITH THE US
FEED GRAINS COUNCIL, AND THE EXCHANGES INVOLVING POLISH AGRI-
CULTURAL WORKERS AND SPECIALISTS TRAINING IN THE US. THE
MEETING WAS THEN HALTED SO THE SECRETARY WOULD BE ON TIME FOR

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5231

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 WARSAW 4354

PASS AGRICULTURE FAS

HIS NEXT APPOINTMENT.

3. FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1978, CALL ON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS EMIL WOJTASZEK. THE SECRETARY'S 45 MINUTE MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER WOJTASZEK WAS LARGELY DEVOTED TO EXPRESSIONS OF THE IMPORTANCE BOTH GVERNMENTS ATTACH TO GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS. WOJTASZEK STRESSED THE HISTORICAL REASONS BEHIND POLAND'S COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND TO GOOD REALTIONS WITH THE U.S. HE CITED PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT VISIT AND THE IMPETUS IT GAVE TO IMPROVED TIES. HE ALSO TOUCHED ON THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE IN OVERALL ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN POLAND AND THE U.S. SECRETARY BERGLAND ECHOED THESE SENTIMENTS AND THEN DESCRIBED PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICIES TO DEAL WITH GLOBAL FOOD PROBLEMS. HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR ALL COUNTRIES, REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL SYSTEMS, TO WORK TOGETHER TO ASSURE FOOD SUPPLIES, RAISE INCOMES, AND REDUCE PROVERTY IN LDC'S. POLAND IS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF SUCH A GLOBAL FOOD STRATEGY, HE SAID. AS FOR BILATERAL AGRI-CULTURAL LINKS, THE SECRETARY SAID THE USG WOULD EXPLORE EVERY CREDIT FACILITY AVAILABLE TO MEET THE GOP'S CURRENT REQUESTS. WOJ-TASZEK CONCLUDED THE MEETING WITH WARM WORDS ABOUT HIS RELATION-SHIP WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND SAID HE HOPED TO MEET HIM, "PERHAPS IN THE CORRIDORS" AT THE FORTHCOMING UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL
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SESSION ON DISARMAMENT. IF NOT THEN, HE HE HOPED FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS DURING THE UNGA NEXT SPETEMBER.

4. SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1978. CALL ON MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND MARITIME ECONOMY JERZY OLSZEWSKI. BECAUSE OF THE LATE SCHEDULING OF THE SECRETARY'S CALL ON FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK, THE CALL ON MINISTER OLSZEWSKI WAS CUT TO 30 MINUTES, AND WAS LARGELY PROFORMA. THE MAJOR POINT OF INTEREST WAS OLSZEWSJG'S STATEMENT, IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW BALTIC PORT ELEVATORS, THAT POLAND NOW HAS 200,000 MT OF GRAIN ABOARD SHIPS BACKED IN POLISH PORTS AWAITING OFF-LOADING.

5. SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1978, CALL ON PARTY FIRST SECRETARY EDWARD GIERDO. SECRETARY BERGLAND MET FOR 45 MINUTES WITH FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK, DURING WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO GIEREK WAS HANDED OVER. THE FIRST SECRETARY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE LETTER AND REFERRED TO HIS "FOND MEMORIES" OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT LAST DECEMBER AND OF HIS PERSONAL AFFECTION FOR THE PRESIDENT. HE THEN SKETCHED OUT POLAND'S PRESENT AGRICULTURAL DIFFICULTIES AND POLICIES, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE NEED FOR LARGER FARM HOLDINGS, CONTINUED RELIANCE ON PRIVATE AGRICULTURE, AND THE RELIABILITY OF POLAND AS AN AGICULTURAL TRADING PARTNER WITH THE U.S. SECRETARY BERGLAND REFERJED TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S POSITIVE ASSESSMENT OF HIS TRIP TO WARSAW. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE CARTER-GIEREK EXCHANGE ON DIVIDED FAMILIES, A COMMENT WHICH PROVOKED

NO RESPONSE FROM THE FIRST SECRETARY. SECRETARY BERGLAND ALSO
OUTLINED PRESENT U.S. GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AND SAID
U.S.-POLISH BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THESE
POLICIES. HE SAID HE WAS MOST PLEASED WITH INFORMATION HE HAD
RECEIVED ABOUT THE LIKELY AGRICULTURAL IMPORT NEEDS OF POLAND
OVER THE COMING YEARS AND SAID THE USG WOULD TRY TO FULFULL
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THESE NEEDS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT UNCER-
TAINITIES OF OUR OWN PRODUCTION.

6. MEMORANDA OF CONVERSATIONS FOLLOW.
SCHAUFEELE

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Message Attributes

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